

Clinton County CERT Connection

January 2017



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Celebrate the Good Times of 2016!

This is the third issue of our Clinton County CERT Connection newsletter planned for production twice each calendar year. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

During the second half of 2016, CERT trainings offered and community outreach events included Grand Mound Fireworks, DeWitt's National Night Out, traffic control for the DeWitt Triathlon and the Clinton Mardi Gras Parade, Clinton and Camanche Fire Department's Open House Safety Days and a Ground Search Class. There were also three missing persons search call-out incidents.

There were approximately **897 volunteer/training hours** logged by Clinton County CERT and the Therapy Dog volunteers during the entire year of 2016 - that is SUPER-FANTASTIC! The first half of 2017 brings a number of additional training opportunities for you. The last page of this newsletter includes upcoming CERT trainings scheduled for 2017. Please make sure to sign up if you are interested and we will continue to send out training and upcoming events by email. We are also planning a CERT Course for those who want to become a CERT volunteer. The class will be held Tuesday evenings during February and March. Please help spread the word!

We hope you have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season! As always we appreciate all you do for your community as a CERT volunteer!

-Chance, Dan and Amanda



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Missing Person: Ground Search Class

A lot of ground was covered at this year's Ground Search Class held at Eagle Point Park. The class was facilitated by Clinton County Emergency Management and Emergency K-9 Operations Search and Rescue.

Iowa Task Force 1 from Cedar Rapids assisted with the training along with Civil Air Patrol capturing photos of the search from the air plane. There were a total of 36 participants.

The great fall weather that day allowed for a pleasant search training. Three different search exercises were conducted including Hasty Search, Loose Grid Search and a Night Search with team debriefings conducted after each search.

Class participants were given a GPS to document their search tracks throughout the park. The county GIS Technician was onsite to show the team's GPS tracks on digital maps.

The class participants searched for a missing man, Al Zhiemer who was suffering from Dementia. The gentleman who played the role of Al also brought his daughter to the class to be an actor to add the feeling of realism.

A small shuttle bus was available to transport participants and instructors to different search stations throughout the park. Our Rapid Tag System was also utilized for checking in, search assignments and checking out participants and instructors to track the teams.

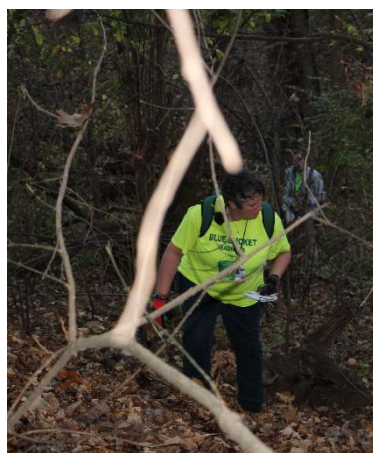
There is no doubt that those who help in a search must endure unpleasant temperatures and be

able to handle a lot of walking in different terrains. However, there are other roles needed during a missing person search for those volunteers who do not want to do the actual search. During this class those roles included being the shuttle bus driver, photographer, being on the Situation Unit using the Rapid Tag System and Amateur Radio to assist with Communications.

Overall, the course was a success with great help from assisting instructors and eager participants! Look for another class to be held in the near future.

13 Essentials to Bring With You on a Search

1. Two flashlights with extra batteries
2. Snack bars
3. First Aid kit
4. Whistle
5. Trekking pole(s)
6. Notebook
7. Pen/Pencil
8. Rain gear
9. Head lamp
10. Long sleeve shirt and long pants
11. Sunscreen
12. Insect repellent
13. Hat with brim



Photos of the 2016 Ground Search Class where participants are exercising different types of searches and providing updates at the debriefings. Photos provided by Rich Jaeger.

Experience the Joy of Volunteering

Who doesn't enjoy putting a smile on a child or parent's face when helping them to make their family safer with information and giveaways! Throughout the year there were a number of community outreach opportunities to sign up for. Below are some photos of those precious moments that CERT and Therapy Dog teams have shared in 2016!



(Top left photo) Young boy looking at glow stick giveaways at Clinton FD Open House



(Top middle photo) Charlotte Dunne with her dog Lito at Clinton FD Open House



(Top right photo) Joan Wiebenga, Kathy Rohling, Gina Sexton and Connie Brashaw at DeWitt's NNO



(Bottom left photo) A gentleman enjoying Fionas, Stan and Kay Bates's dog at DeWitt NNO

(Bottom right photo) Gina Sexton giving out glow sticks at DeWitt NNO

THIS ISSUE'S EMERGENCY TIP:

WINTER DRIVING TIPS: The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

- Stay in the car. Do not leave to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow.
- Hang a brightly-colored cloth on the radio antenna and raise the hood to draw attention.
- Do minor exercises to keep up circulation. Clap hands and move arms and legs. Try not to stay in one position for too long. If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping.
- Avoid overexertion. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise like snow shoveling or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.
- Run the engine occasionally to keep warm. Turn the engine on for about 10 minutes each hour. Run the heater and turn on the dome light while the car is running. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow, and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation.
- For warmth, huddle together.

Looking Ahead - 2017 CERT Schedule

Mark your calendar for the upcoming training events. Communication through email will still be used to update volunteers on additional trainings that come up. If you are interested in signing up for a training, requests can be sent to Amanda unless a different registration process is required.

Thursday, January, 26th @ 7 – 8:30 pm

Monthly CERT Training on Rapid Tag ID card System

Clinton Co. Administration Building (1900 North 3rd St., Clinton)

(Tuesdays) February 7th - March 28th @ 6 – 8:30 pm

Clinton County CERT Course

Clinton Co. Administration Building (1900 North 3rd St., Clinton)

*Will need a few current CERT volunteers to help at each week's class.

Thursday, March 30 @ 7 – 8:30 pm

Monthly CERT Training on the Emergency Call Center

Clinton Co. Administration Building (1900 North 3rd St., Clinton)

Wednesday, April 26th @ 6 pm – 8 pm

Annual Therapy Dog Training

Clinton Co. Administration Building (1900 North 3rd St., Clinton)

There will not be a monthly CERT training meeting in the month of May.



**Clinton County
CERT Connection**
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Do You Have Something to Say?

Would you like to include information in this newsletter? Good news, there will be available space in the upcoming newsletters for your helpful tidbits.

We want to hear from you so email me your brief article! Prospective articles can include information from your experiences or facts pertaining to volunteering, CERT or emergency preparedness. All articles are due to Amanda by the end of either May or November - apearson@clintoncounty-ia.gov.